



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes 10/22/2009

Fiscal Resources Task Group - Vision 2020  
 Minutes of Meeting 10/22/09

Present: Gordon Jamieson (Chair), David Garbarino, Adam Delmolino, Pete Howard (Secretary)

SOTTA - Pete to provide proposed plan to BoS & ask for time on their agenda.

MY TAX DOLLARS - Deputy Town Manager has been emailed another copy asked again to review. So far she has been too busy. Webmaster won't post w/o her approval. Gordon to follow up.

RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF 5YR PLAN - Gordon expects to get back to this task soon.

FY10 PROJECTS - After some discussion of the options proposed at last meeting, attendees agreed on following plan:

November Meeting 11/18 Gordon to invite the Town Treasurer to discuss:

- Water/Sewer working capital issue analysis: A one time saving might be realized by changing from 2 to 4 billings a year and shortening the grace period for bill payment.
- Special Purpose Fund (Trust Funds) reporting & analysis: A number of funds established by donations are controlled by the Trust Fund Commissioners and managed by the treasurer and are not visible to the town's residents on the whole. Perhaps greater transparency would be desirable.
- Town mailings and communications with residents/taxpayers/ratepayers: Can the mailings be used for other info than scholarship fundraising? Perhaps consider Lexington's practice

December Meeting - 12/9 Gordon to invite the Fire Chief, Selectman LaCourt & the Personnel Director to discuss:

- AFD Staffing Analysis (day/night call analysis) Perhaps prepare a proposal for Fire Chief based on call data gathered several years ago to see if cost savings can be made -
- Employee health care insurance

Jan/Feb

- Insurance budget format modification (to mgr and fincom)
- Assessor website (description of assessment process)
- My tax dollars FY10

March

- Wrap-up unfinished business from above.
- Initiate regionalization study - Proposed as a broad effort to collect information on possible cost savings from combining some town functions with other communities. It might include a review of existing regionalization efforts, interviews with Town leaders, study of regionalization agreements elsewhere in MA and US. Goal would be a report to Town Meeting in 2011..

### ANNUAL VISION 2020 SURVEY

Given the large budget deficit projected for the coming fiscal year, attendees agreed that the views of residents on possible solutions should be solicited. The following topics were suggested during a brainstorming session

#### -REVENUE

- Use 25% to 50% of reserves
- PAYT
- CPA

- Override
- Parking meters
- Increase fees & fines
- Fully enforce overnight parking restrictions
- Bake Sale

**-BUDGET Reductions**

- Wind electric generator (Mt Gilboa to cover - Street lights), AHS
- Restructure employee health insurance
- Give up emergency medical service
- Nighttime fire staffing
- Reduce library hours
- Furlough town employees
- LED street lighting
  - School class size increase
  - Less complete snow plowing

Attendees realize that each option should include a description including estimated payoff. The survey questions must be ranked or grouped to encourage a thoughtful response. Numbers & structure needed by November meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS - all at 7:30 in 2nd flr Town Hall Annex mtg room.

11/18 Wed

12/9 Wed

1/13 Wed